

ACCESSION #: 9601170049
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

FACILITY NAME: Sequoyah Nuclear Plant (SQN), Unit 1 PAGE: 1 OF 5

DOCKET NUMBER: 05000327

TITLE: Manual Reactor Trip Initiated as a Result of Failed Air
Line to Feedwater Regulator Valve Causing Low Steam
Generator Level

EVENT DATE: 12/08/95 LER #: 95-017-00 REPORT DATE: 01/08/96

OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED: DOCKET NO: 05000

OPERATING MODE: 1 POWER LEVEL: 100

THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR
SECTION:

50.73(a)(2)(i)

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER:

NAME: J.W. Proffitt, Compliance Licensing TELEPHONE: (423) 843-6651
Engineer

COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIPTION:

CAUSE: SYSTEM: COMPONENT: MANUFACTURER:

REPORTABLE NPRDS:

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED: NO

ABSTRACT:

On December 8, 1995, at 2156 Eastern standard time (EST), a manual reactor trip was initiated on Unit 1 as a result of a low level in the No. 4 steam generator. At 2122 EST, a low steam generator level alarm was recieved in the main control room. An assistant unit operator was dispatched to the feedwater regulator valves to investigate. It was determined that an air line on the Loop 4 feedwater regulator valve was leaking and causing the feedwater regulator valve to drift closed. The root cause of this event was a lack of controls for maintenance activities that affect vibration through system configuration changes. A 1/8-inch brass close nipple that connected the air line to the valve positioner had failed. The configuration of the four Unit 1 feedwater regulating valves was changed by installing new tubing and fittings. The appropriate procedures and/or program will be revised to address maintenance activities that affect vibration through system configuration

changes. The appropriate Maintenance personnel will be trained on the revised procedures/program.

END OF ABSTRACT

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I. PLANT CONDITIONS

Unit 1 was in power operation, Mode 1, at approximately 100 percent power.

II. DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

A. Event

On December 8, 1995, at 2156 Eastern standard time (EST), a manual reactor trip was initiated on Unit 1 as a result of a low level in the No. 4 steam generator (EIS CODE AB). At 2122 EST, a low steam generator level alarm was received in the main control room. An assistant unit operator (AUO) was dispatched to the feedwater regulator valves (EIS CODE SJ) to investigate. It was determined that an air line on the Loop 4 feedwater regulator valve was leaking and causing the feedwater regulator valve to drift closed. This resulted in a reduction of feedwater to the No. 4 steam generator and subsequent decrease in level. The AUO held the line together, restoring the control of the valve. Efforts were being made to determine how to restore the configuration of the line. The line subsequently severed, and control of feedwater flow to the No. 4 steam generator was lost. The operator initiated a manual reactor trip.

B. Inoperable Structures, Components, or Systems that Contributed to the Event

None.

C. Dates and Approximate Times of Major Occurrences

December 8, 1995 A low steam generator level alarm at 2122 EST on Loop 4 was annunciated in the control room. The unit operator observed that the feedwater flow was below main steam flow. An AUO was dispatched to the feedwater regulator valves to investigate.

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December 8, 1995 The AUO identified that a fitting at 2124 EST on the valve was leaking. The AUO held the line together, restoring control to the valve. Efforts were being made to determine how to restore the configuration of the line.

December 8, 1995 The line subsequently severed, and at 2150 EST control of feedwater flow to the No. 4 steam generator was lost.

December 8, 1995 Operations personnel manually at 2156 EST tripped the reactor and stabilized the plant in Mode 3.

D. Other Systems or Secondary Functions Affected

None.

E. Method of Discovery

A low steam generator level alarm on Loop 4 was annunciated in the control room.

F. Operator Actions

The control room operators responded to the alarm and diagnosed the plant condition. After determining that feedwater control would not respond properly, the operator initiated a manual reactor trip. Subsequent to the trip, the operators stabilized the unit in hot standby, Mode 3.

G. Safety System Responses

The plant responded to the manual reactor trip as designed.

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III. CAUSE OF EVENT

A. Immediate Cause

The immediate cause of the event was the failure of an air line

on the Loop 4 feedwater regulator valve.

B. Root Cause

During the Unit 1 Cycle 7 refueling outage, quick disconnect fittings were added to the feedwater regulator valve air lines. The addition of the quick disconnects was performed in accordance with plant maintenance procedures. However, vibration effects were not considered during the planning or implementation of the activity.

The root cause of this event was a lack of controls for maintenance activities that affect vibration through system configuration changes. Procedurally, vibration is not considered in work planning unless specifically addressed by a work request.

IV. ANALYSIS OF EVENT

Plant responses during and after the unit trip were consistent with the responses described in the final safety analysis report, and accordingly, the event did not adversely affect the health and safety of plant personnel or the general public.

V. CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

A. Immediate Corrective Action

The four Unit 1 feedwater regulating valves contained 1/8-inch brass close nipples in the positioner output line configurations. Subsequent to the event, the configuration was changed on these four valves by installing new tubing and fittings. In addition to these valves, other valves that had the quick disconnect couplings added in either Unit 1 Cycle 7 or

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Unit 2 Cycle 6 were walked down. The purpose of the walkdown was to identify similar tubing configurations that could possibly be affected by the addition of the quick connect couplings. The results of the walkdowns concluded that the configurations were satisfactory.

B. Corrective Action to Prevent Recurrence

The appropriate procedures and/or program will be revised to address maintenance activities that affect vibration through system configuration changes. The appropriate Maintenance personnel will be trained on the revised procedures/program.

VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. Failed Components

A 1/8-inch brass national pipe thread close nipple in the positioner air output line failed as a result of high cycle fatigue caused by vibration.

B. Previous Similar Events

A review of previous reportable events identified no previous events resulting from a vibration-induced failure of a component.

VII. COMMITMENTS

1. The appropriate procedures and/or program will be revised to address maintenance activities that affect vibration through system configuration changes. This action will be completed by March 1, 1996.

2. The appropriate Maintenance personnel will be trained on the revised procedures/program. This action will be completed by April 12, 1996.

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Tennessee Valley Authority, Post Office Box 2000, Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee
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R.J. Adney
Site Vice President
Sequoyah Nuclear Plant

January 8, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Gentlemen:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY - SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT (SQN)
UNIT 1 - DOCKET
NO. 50-327 - FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES DPR-77 - LICENSEE EVENT
REPORT
(LER) 50-327/95017

The enclosed LER provides details concerning a manual reactor trip that was initiated as a result of a low steam generator level. The loss of an air line on the Loop 4 feedwater regulator valve caused a reduction in feedwater flow, resulting in decreasing level in the No. 4 steam generator. Control of the feedwater regulator valve could not be maintained, therefore, a manual reactor trip was initiated. This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR50.73(a)(2)(iv) as an event that resulted in the actuation of engineered safety features, including the reactor protection system.

Sincerely,

R. J. Adney

Enclosure
cc: See page 2

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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January 8, 1996

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